ETS EXPOSURE AND NONSMOKERS WITH PRE-EXISTENT HEART/LUNG DISEASE

CLAIM: TOBACCO SMOKE IS A HEALTH RISK FOR NONSMOKERS SUFFERING FROM HEART AND LUNG DISEASES.

RESPONSES:

- The claim about heart disease is largely based on a 1978 study involving 10 heart patients which reported that exposure to tobacco smoke could hasten the onset of heart pain during exercise.(1) However, the credibility of this report, as well as other research by this investigator, has been widely challenged.(2) Furthermore, other than a single Russian language article about which relatively little is known,(3) the 1978 data have not been replicated in the literature. One reason for this may be the possibility that subjective factors may have influenced the data. This possibility is supported by research from Great Britain which actually measured objective responses of a group of heart patients to smoking and carbon monoxide exposure. Using these objective measurements, no adverse physical response were reported at <u>any</u> level of exposure.(4)

  Other scientists have questioned the plausibility of an association between adverse reactions in heart patients

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and exposure to tobacco smoke, given the extremely low levels encountered in everyday life.(5)

- Similarly, studies which have assessed the influence of tobacco smoke exposures on adult asthmatics are not conclusive. While the data from two studies have been interpreted as suggesting a genuine response to tobacco smoke,(6) the five other studies reported no significant, objective changes in asthmatics, sometimes even after prolonged, heavy exposure to tobacco smoke.(7) In the two studies reporting a possible relationship, researchers were unable to rule out the influence of emotional and psychological stress.

- It's doubtful these people can avoid everything that they perceive as uncomfortable -- this is a simple reality.

- What's obvious is the need for special courtesy by <u>all</u> people -- not just smokers -- to individuals with these medical conditions. That may mean avoiding, for example, the use of aerosols, perfumes, etc., as well as smoking.

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